Saponaria

Saponaria is a genus of flowering plants in the family Caryophyllaceae, native to Asia and Europe, and are commonly known as **soapworts**.[2] They are herbaceous perennials and annuals, some with woody bases. The flowers are abundant, five-petalled and usually in shades of pink[3] or white.[2] The genus is closely related to the genus *Silene*, being distinguished from these by having only two (not three or five) styles in the flower.[3] It is also related to *Gypsophila*, but its calyx is cylindrical rather than bell-shaped.[4]

The most familiar species might be common soapwort (*S. officinalis*), which is native to Eurasia but is known in much of the world as an introduced species, often a weed, and sometimes a cultivated ornamental plant.[2] The genus name *Saponaria* derives from the Latin *sapo* ("soap") and *-aria* ("pertaining to"),[2] and at least one species, *S. officinalis*, has been used to make soap.[5] It contains saponins, and a liquid soap can be produced by soaking the leaves in water.[2] This soap is still used to clean delicate antique tapestries.[6] It is also sometimes stated that it is used as an emulsifier in Turkish delight confections, but this is a case of double confusion. The roots of plants in genus *Gypsophila* are used to make the Turkish confection helva and *Saponaria* species are not used.[7]

Saponaria species are eaten by the larvae of some butterflies and moths, including the Lychnis and *Coleophora saponariella*, which is exclusive to the genus.

Diversity

There are thirty[4][8] to forty[2][9][10] species in the genus.

Plants of the World Online accepts 39 species:[1]

- *Saponaria aenesia* Heldr.
- *Saponaria bargyliana* Gomb.
- *Saponaria bellidifolia* Sm.
- *Saponaria biovulata* (Stapf) Barkoudah
- *Saponaria bodeana* Boiss.
- *Saponaria caespitosa* DC.

- *Saponaria calabrica* Guss.
- *Saponaria cerastoides* Fisch. ex C.A.Mey.
- *Saponaria cypria* Boiss.
- *Saponaria dalmasi* H.Boissieu
- *Saponaria emineana* Gemici & Kit Tan
- *Saponaria glutinosa* M.Bieb.
- *Saponaria griffithiana* Boiss.
- *Saponaria gypsacea* Vved.
- *Saponaria halophila* Hedge & Hub.-Mor.
- *Saponaria iranica* Dashti, Assadi & Sharifnia
- *Saponaria jagelii* Phitos & Greuter
- *Saponaria karapinarensis* Vural & Adıgüzel
- *Saponaria kotschyi* Boiss.
- *Saponaria lutea* L.
- *Saponaria mesogitana* Boiss.
- *Saponaria ocymoides* L.
- *Saponaria officinalis* L.
- *Saponaria orientalis* L.
- *Saponaria pachyphylla* Rech.f.
- *Saponaria pamphylica* Boiss. & Heldr.
- *Saponaria picta* Boiss.
- *Saponaria pinetorum* Hedge
- *Saponaria prostrata* Willd.
- *Saponaria pumila* Janch.
- *Saponaria pumilio* Boiss.
- *Saponaria sewerzowii* Regel & Schmalh.

Saponaria	
Saponaria ocymoides	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
Clade:	Tracheophytes
Clade:	Angiosperms
Clade:	Eudicots
Order:	Caryophyllales
Family:	Caryophyllaceae
Genus:	*Saponaria* L. (1753)
Species	
30-40, see text	
Synonyms[1]	
• *Bootia* Neck. (1768), nom. illeg. • *Pleioneura* Rech.f. (1951) • *Proteinia* (Ser.) Rchb. (1841) • *Smegmathamnium* Fenzl ex Rchb. (1844) • *Spanizium* Griseb. (1843)	

- *Saponaria sicula* Raf.
- *Saponaria stenopetala* Rech.f.
- *Saponaria subrosularis* Rech.f.
- *Saponaria suffruticosa* Nábělek
- *Saponaria syriaca* Boiss.
- *Saponaria tadzhikistanica* (Botsch.) V.A.Shultz
- *Saponaria tridentata* Boiss.

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External links

- *Saponaria*. (https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=20038) ITIS.